

FEB 15 1965

Molotov Bombs Fire Home of Malcolm X

The home of Malcolm X, the black nationalist leader, was seriously damaged early yesterday by a fire that apparently was started by two Molotov cocktails.

Malcolm, his wife and his four young daughters all were in the house at the time of the fire but escaped uninjured. The house is at 23-11 97th St. in East Elmhurst, Queens.

Police and Fire Department investigators thought that the fire was started in the living room by Molotov cocktails—bottles of burning gasoline—that were thrown through a front window. Along with other glass fragments, they found an intact bottle neck containing a rag and bearing drops of a liquid thought to be gasoline.

AWAKENED

Malcolm told the police he was awakened by a noise, probably shattering glass, at about 2:30 a. m. He awakened his wife and children and led them to safety, out the back of the house, he said.

Neither Malcolm nor the police would speculate yesterday about who threw the fire bombs, but Malcolm said: "I intend to point out to the people of New York who I think is behind this and what will develop from it, if something is not done about it," he said.

Malcolm is a defector from the Black Muslims, and has been at odds with them for months. Aside from their doctrinal differences, the Muslims claim that they

own the house in which Malcolm is living, and they want him to get out of it. He has refused to move, so far.

When the Muslims secured a court evictions order, Malcolm claimed that the house had been given to him, and began litigation that postponed the carrying out of the order.

Joseph X, who described himself as a business manager for the Muslims, appeared at the house after the fire yesterday and told reporters:

"We own this place, man. He was going to be evicted tomorrow. We have money tied up here. We have to hear about it on the radio. He didn't even give us the courtesy of a phone call."

THE DAMAGE

The house is a one-story brick. The damage to the exterior of the building appeared to be slight, but several rooms were charred inside, and there was extensive fire, smoke and water damage to the furnishings. The fire was thought to have started about 2:30 a. m. It was out by 3:05. The alarm was turned in at 2:46 by a cab driver who noticed the flames as he passed by.

The house is located in a middle-class neighborhood that has both white and Negro residents.

Malcolm had returned from a trip to England just hours before the fire, and he left again yesterday morning for a speaking engagement in Detroit. He was to return to New York last night.

Continued



Herald Tribune—UPI
TARGET FOR VIOLENCE—Malcolm X surveys the damage outside his East Elmhurst, Queens house yesterday following the Molotov cocktail attack. The Negro leader and his family were not injured.

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